

This April 26, 2002, update is from EPA's Chemical
Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Office.
Direct links to each document are provided.
Volume 2, Number 3 includes:

1. Citizen Corps Council: Opportunity for LEPCs

1. The President has created Citizen Corps as part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative. The purpose of Citizen Corps is to help coordinate volunteer activities that will make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. In an April 4, 2002 letter, President Bush notes that every community is different and so each community will organize its Citizen Corps Council in its own way. He encourages local leaders to use existing structures as they set up Citizen Corps Councils. The President notes, that "what all Citizen Corps Councils will have in common is that our local leaders will be working to expand opportunities for their community members to engage in volunteer service that will support emergency preparation, prevention, and response."

The Guide for Local Officials (<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>) notes:
"There may be an existing group in your community that includes many of the appropriate participants, such as local emergency planning committees, that could take the lead on joining with additional relevant parties to implement Citizen Corps." (page 10)

The proposed grant program to support local Citizen Corps will be administered in FEMA's Office of National Preparedness. LEPCs who are interested in taking the lead in their community should act now to have the mayor or other appropriate official name them (with any additional membership, as appropriate) to be the Citizen Corps Council. Then watch for additional guidance on how to apply for grants. This is an opportunity to make LEPCs more visible and more effective.

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